

7p
No 16

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HE HUNG UP HIS GUNS



HE HUNG UP HIS GUNS

PETE WHEELER
CAME OUT OF JAIL
DETERMINED HE WAS
THROUGH WITH THE
OUTLAW TRAILS. BUT
HIS OLD GANG HAD
OTHER IDEAS,
PARTICULARLY WHEN
THEY LEARNED HIS
PA HAD FOUND A
FORTUNE....

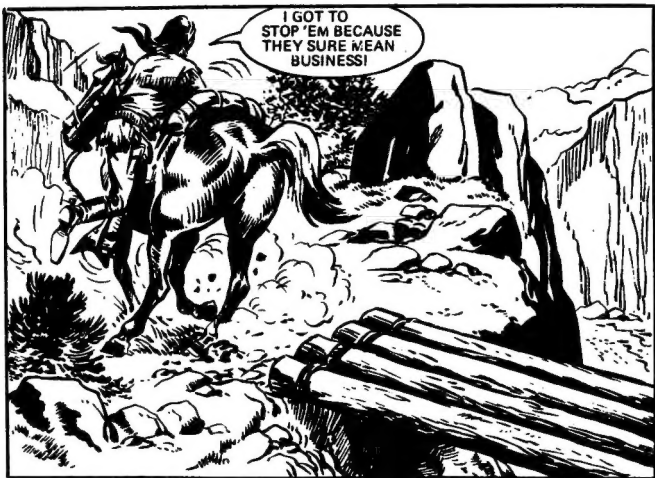
BRING OUT
THE PALEFACES!
THE GREAT MANITOU
IS READY FOR THE
SACRIFICE!

IT TOOK MORE THAN THE WARLIKE SCREAMS OF INDIANS TO SCARE OLD
TIMER LUKE WHEELER...

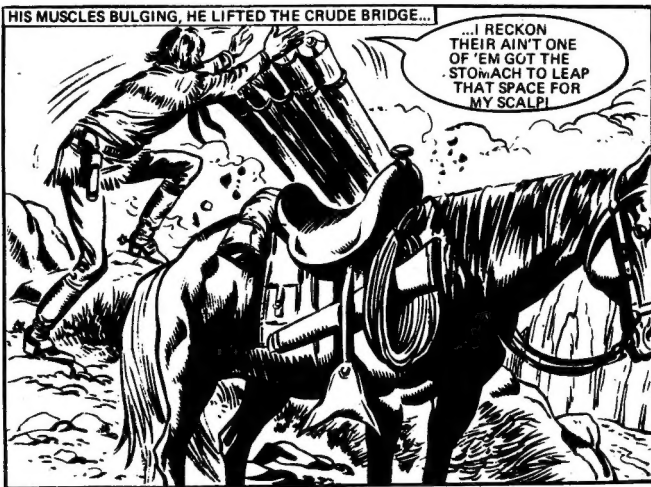
THEM PESKY
INJUNS IS GIVING
ME THE EAR-ACHE
WITH THEIR
YELLING!







HIS MUSCLES BULGING, HE LIFTED THE CRUDE BRIDGE...



AND HE WAS RIGHT.

BAHI THE
ACCURSED WHITE
DOG HAS BEATEN
US!

HAVE PATIENCE,
MY BROTHER! THERE
IS ALWAYS ANOTHER
DAY!

SOON AFTER...

SANDSTORM!
I GOT TO TAKE
SHELTER FAST!



THESE MUST BE THE
RUINS OF AN OLD INDIAN
TEMPLE. WE'LL REST UP
HERE FOR THE NIGHT...



THE NEXT
MORNING....


IT'S KINDA FUNNY,
HORSE, BUT WHEN YOU
START PRICKING UP
YOUR EARS LIKE YOU
ARE NOW, I KNOW
THERE'S WATER
SOMEWHERE NEAR...




SUDDENLY...

AAAGHI





NOW LOOK
WHAT YOU MADE
ME DO!



I CAN
HEAR WATER
DRIPPING...MUST
BE AN UNDER-
GROUND SPRING!

HE MADE A CHUDE TORCH AND IN ITS FLICKERING LIGHT....

...YEAH!
I THOUGHT
SO....!



BUT THAT WASN'T
ALL!

THUNDER! MY
EYES ARE TRICKING
ME! I'M SEEING
THINGS!



SOON ENOUGH THOUGH HE
REALISED HE HAD FOUND A
FORTUNE!

YIPPEE!
YAHOO! I'M
RICHI I'M
RICHI

HE HAULED HIMSELF FROM THE
CHAMBER...

YOU AND YOUR
THIRST, I'M GOING TO
BUY YOU A DIAMOND
STUDDED FEED BAG...I
AH SURE AM!

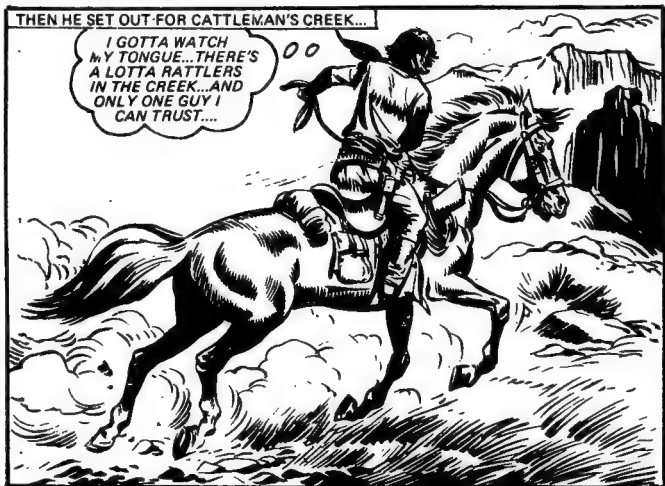
...RECKON WE'RE
GONNA HAVE TUH MAKE
SEVERAL TRIPS TO GET
IT ALL...

GOT TO MAKE SURE
I CAN FIND IT AGAIN...A
COYOTE'S HEAD...A PASS
WITHOUT A BRIDGE...A
CROOKED TREE...



THEN HE SET OUT FOR CATTLEMEN'S CREEK...

I GOTTA WATCH
MY TONGUE...THERE'S
A LOTTA RATTLES
IN THE CREEK...AND
ONLY ONE GUY I
CAN TRUST...



MEANWHILE, IN A SALOON IN
GUNMAN'S GULCH...

...YOU'RE WASTING
YOUR TIME, SWAID! I'M
THROUGH! I'M GOING
HOME...

AW DON'T
BE LIKE THAT,
PETE!

PETE WHEELER HAD SPENT TWO
YEARS IN JAIL AND IT HAD
TAUGHT HIM A LESSON....

I AIN'T GOING
BACK IN JAIL. I'M
GOING STRAIGHT.

HEH, HEH,
HEH! YOU ALWAYS
WAS A KIDDER.

YOU GOT IT
ALL WRONG. I'M
GIVING UP LIVING
BY THE GUN!

AND I
SAY YOU
AIN'T!



BOTH MEN DREW - FAST!

AAAGH!



THERE WAS A STUNNED SILENCE...

...MY GUN'S STILL
FAST... YOU'D BE WISE
NOT TO FORGET
IT, SWAID!

I'LL GET YOU
FOR THIS, WHEELER!
BY THUNDER YOU
WON'T GET AWAY
WITH THIS!



SWAID WAS YELLOW WITH RAGE...

GET AFTER HIM! NO GUY PULLS A GUN ON SWAID AND LIVES!



LUKE REACHED CATTLEMEN'S CREEK THAT EVENING...

HI, JOE. YOU GOT A MINUTE?

SURE! STEP INTO THE BACK ROOM, LUKE!



JOE WYNDER WAS THE LOCAL SALOON OWNER AND THEY WERE OLD FRIENDS...

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, LUKE?

I'VE STRUCK IT RICH, JOE! BUT I NEED YOUR HELP TO SELL THE STUFF!



HE TOLD HIM OF HIS DISCOVERY.

YOU
KNOW THE
RIGHT FOLK.

LEAVE IT TO ME,
LUKE, I'LL CONTACT A
DEALER I KNOW IN
THE EAST!



LATER...

HE SURE IS A
LUCKY GUY. I COULD
DO WITH A SACK OF
DOUGH RIGHT
NOW...



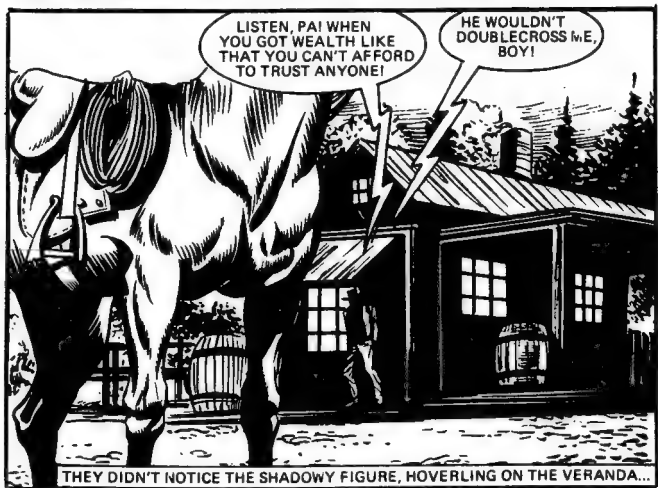
WHEN LUKE ARRIVED AT HIS SMALL HOMESTEAD...

PETE!

HULLO, PAI
I'VE COME HOME -
FOR GOOD!







I GOT TO TELL
THE BOSS ABOUT
THIS...I SENDING
PETE TUH
BOOTHILL CAN
WAIT....



WHEN HE ARRIVED
AT THE GANG'S
SECRET HIDEOUT...

WHERE'S
THE BOSS? I
GOT GOOD
NEWS!

INSIDE...
HE'S WAITING
FOR YOU,
MARTINI!

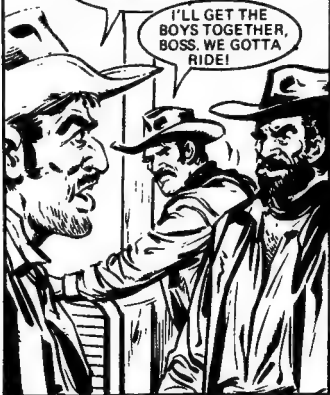




MART SPOKE EXCITEDLY...

I SEEN IT.
RINGS, NECKLACES...
DIAMONDS....!

I'LL GET THE
BOYS TOGETHER,
BOSS. WE GOTTA
RIDE!



NO, JAKE. THAT
AIN'T THE WAY TUH
PLAY IT. MART SAYS
THERE'S PLENTY MORE...
NOW, THIS IS WHAT
WE'LL DO....



MEANWHILE...

I'LL RIDE INTO
TOWN AND GET SOME
STORES, PA, THEN WE'LL
HIT THE TRAIL!

IT'S GOOD TO
HAVE YOU. HERE
LOOKING AFTER
ME, PETE.



IN THE LOCAL STORE...

HI, PETE!
NICE TUH SEE
YUH BACK!

THANKS,
JEB!



BUT JEB'S SON SNEERED...

HOW
LONG YOU BEEN
SERVING JAIL
BIRDS, PA?

YOU TAKE THAT
BACK, SON. PETE'S
PAID FOR HIS
CRIMES!



THAT'S OKAY,
JEB. I GUESS HE AIN'T
LONG GROWN OUT OF
HIS SHORT PANTS!

WHY... YOU...!



A WILD SWING CAUGHT PETE OFF
BALANCE...



BUT PETE CAME BACK FAST.





THE SALOON OWNER'S PATRONISING TONE CAUGHT PETE ON THE RAW...

YEAH. I KNOW.
BUT DON'T LET IT
MAKE YOU BITTER,
SON...AND DRIVE
YUH BACK TO YOUR
OLD WAYS...

WHY DON'T
YOU MIND YOUR
GODDARN
BUSINESS!

HE DON'T SEEM
LIKE HE'S CHANGED
MUCH TUH ME,
SHERIFF!

IF HE MAKES
ANY MORE TROUBLE,
I'LL PUT HIM IN A
CELL TO COOL OFF!

JOE MAYBE AN OLD
BUDDY OF PA'S, BUT I DON'T
LIKE THE GUY...AND I WISH
PA HADN'T TOLD HIM ABOUT
THE TREASURE....



MEBBE HE'D LIKE ME
BEHIND BARS AGAIN...THEN
PA WOULD BE EASY MEAT...
I DON'T THINK I'LL HANG
ABOUT TOWN!



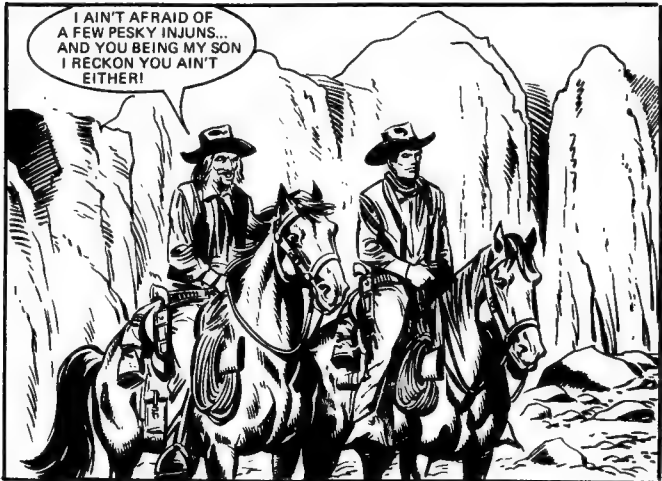
THE NEXT DAY, THEY SET OUT...

I RECKON
IT'LL TAKE ABOUT
THREE DAYS,
SON.

THIS TRAIL
RUNS ACROSS
BAD INJUN
COUNTRY, PAI



I AIN'T AFRAID OF
A FEW PESKY INJUNS...
AND YOU BEING MY SON
I RECKON YOU AIN'T
EITHER!



BUT THE DANGER JUST THEN WAS FROM SWAID...



GUNS FLAMED AND ROARED...



PETE RECOGNISED THEM
IMMEDIATELY...



AND WHEN AMMUNITION BEGAN TO RUN LOW, FISTS TOOK OVER...



SON AND FATHER FOUGHT LIKE MOUNTAIN CATS...



BUT THEY WERE HOLELESSLY OUTNUMBERED...

RAISE 'EM HIGH,
PETE, AND DON'T TRY
TO BE SMART THIS
TIME!



TIE 'EM UP. THEN
SEARCH THE OLD GOAT.
HE MUST HAVE A MAP
HIDDEN SOMEWHERE!

TAKE YOUR
THIEVING HANDS
OFF ME.....!



LUKE WHEELER CONTINUED TO PROTEST IN NO UNCERTAIN FASHION...

SHUT
UP, YUH OLD
FOOL!

HERE
IT IS,
BOSS!

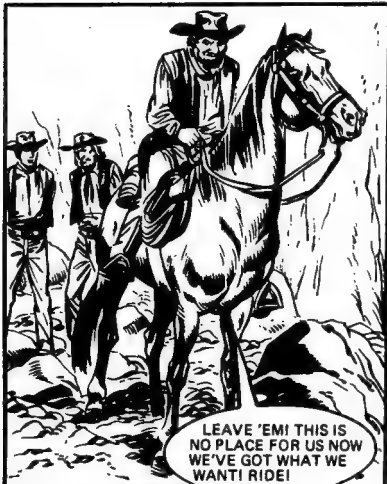


MEANWHILE...

(PALEFACES!)



THE OUTLAWS WERE SOON
AWARE OF THE DANGER
ABOVE THEM...



THE EAR SPLITTING SCREAMS OF THE INDIANS GREW PERILOUSLY CLOSE.....



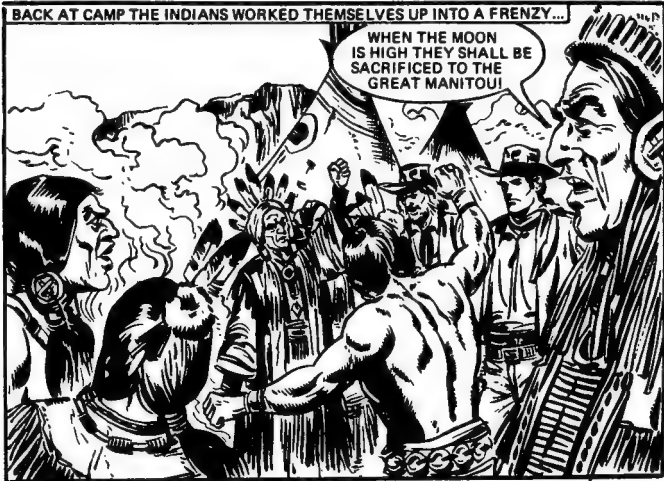


LUKE AND PETE WERE FORCED TO TROT BEHIND THE ENRAGED BRAVES...



BACK AT CAMP THE INDIANS WORKED THEMSELVES UP INTO A FRENZY...

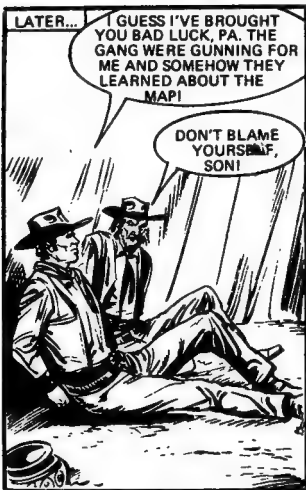
WHEN THE MOON
IS HIGH THEY SHALL BE
SACRIFICED TO THE
GREAT MANITOU!



LATER...

I GUESS I'VE BROUGHT
YOU BAD LUCK, PA. THE
GANG WERE GUNNING FOR
ME AND SOMEHOW THEY
LEARNED ABOUT THE
MAPI!

DON'T BLAME
YOURSELF,
SON!



PETE GRITTED HIS TEETH...

...WHAT WE GOTTA
DO IS ESCAPE FROM THE
SCREAMING VARMINTS
AFOR WE LOSE OUT
SCALPS!

SEE IF YOU
CAN LOOSEN THESE
KNOTS WITH YOUR
FINGERS, PA!



EVEN IF
WE CAN'T ESCAPE
WE CAN GO DOWN
FIGHTING!



THAT NIGHT, WHILE THE MOON
SHONE BRIGHTLY...



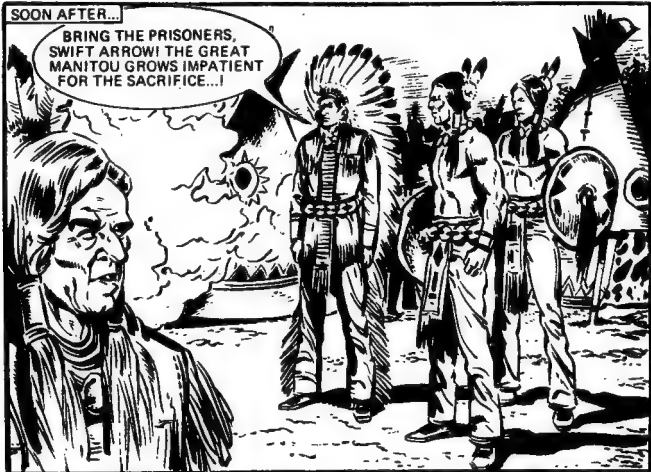
...A SHADOWY FIGURE SPRANG WITH THE SPEED OF A MOUNTAIN LION...

AAAAGH!



SOON AFTER...

BRING THE PRISONERS,
SWIFT ARROW! THE GREAT
MANITOU GROWS IMPATIENT
FOR THE SACRIFICE...!



THE RHYTHM OF THE BEATING DRUMS INCREASED IN FURY...



SUDDENLY, AN EXPLOSION
RENT THE AIR...



AIEE!
THE GODS ARE
ANGRY!



FLAMES LICKED HUNGRILY AROUND THE DEFENCELESS TEPEES. PANIC BROKE
OUT AMONG THE BRAVES...



LUKE AND PETE LOOKED ANXIOUS...

FOR PETE'S
SAKE WHAT'S GOING
ON OUT THERE?

I DON'T
KNOW,
PA...



...I GUESS A
FIRE WON'T SAVE
OUR LIVES AND...
WHAT?



I JUST
WISH MY
HANDS WERE
FREE I'D...

SHUT UP,
YOU FOOL! IT'S
ME, JOE WYNDER!



HE SLASHED THROUGH
THE ROPES ABOUT
THEIR WRISTS...

...IT'S SURPRISING
WHAT A COUPLE OF STICKS
OF DYNAMITE WILL DO TO
SUPERSTITIOUS INJUNS!

JOE!



HE SLASHED A HOLE IN THE TEPEE...

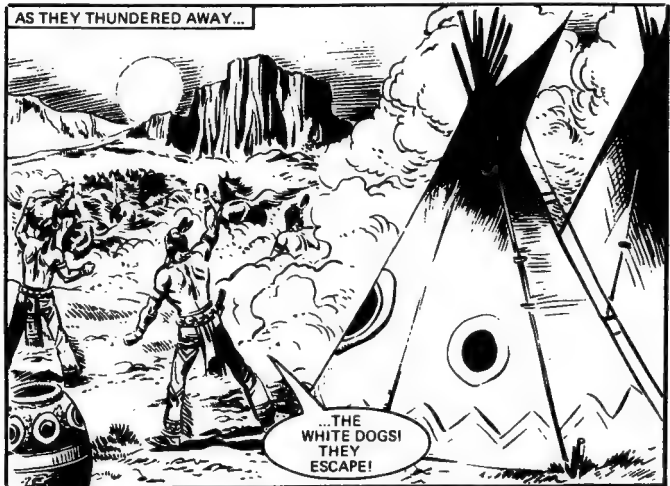
QUICK!
THIS
WAY....!



THEY FOUND THEIR MOUNTS AND SCATTERED THE INDIAN PONIES...



AS THEY THUNDERED AWAY...



AT LAST...



LATER...



I GUESS WE
AIN'T THANKED
YUH FOR SAVING
OUR LIVES, JOE!

HUHI

SOUNDS LIKE
YOUR PETE STILL
DON'T TRUST ME,
LUKE!

TOO.
RIGHT I DON'T,
MISTER!



MY HUNCH IS HE
ONLY RISKED HIS NECK
BECAUSE HE FIGURED
WE STILL HAD THE
MAPI

NO, PETE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT....

PETE LAUGHED HARSHLY...

WELL, JOE, YOU HAD ALL
YOUR TROUBLE FOR NOTHING!
WE HAVEN'T GOT IT! MY OLD
OUTFIT AMBUSHED US...YOU
DIDN'T KNOW THAT...AND
GRABBED IT!

DID DISMAY FLICKER ACROSS JOE'S FACE? PETE COULDN'T BE SURE...

LIKE I SAID, JAIL'S
MADE YOU BITTER.
MIXING WITH BANDITS
HAS MADE YOU
SUSPICIOUS OF
EVERYONE....

SURE, PETE,
JOE WOULDN'T
ROB ME!

THE OLD TIMER CHUCKLED...

ANYWAY, I STILL
GOT A GOOD MEMORY.
I RECKON I CAN FIND
THAT TREASURE AGAIN
EVEN IF I HAVEN'T GOT
THE MAP!



LET'S GET
AFTER THOSE
CRITTERS - THEY
AIN'T GOT ALL THAT
MUCH START OF
US....!

I CAN'T
WAIT TO GET
MY HANDS ON
THAT SWAID!



AT SUN-UP...

...THEY'LL BE TAKING
THEIR TIME, FIGURING THE
INJUNS ARE DEALING
WITH US....

THEY'RE
GONNA GET A
SURPRISE!



PETE SAID NOTHING...

I GOT TO WATCH
JOE. PA'S KNOWN HIM
A LONG WHILE. I COULD
BE WRONG. BUT GREED
CHANGES A GUY.



MEANWHILE...

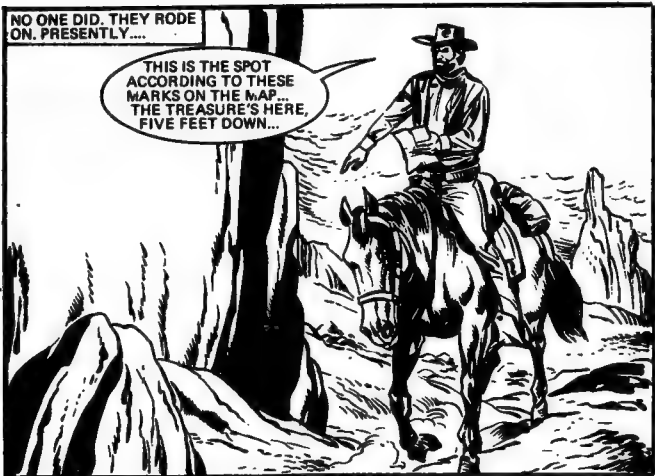
...THIS IS BAD
COUNTRY, THE SACRED
BURIAL GROUND OF THE
INJUNS...IT'S UNLUCKY.

ANY GUY WANTS
TO BACK DOWN HE CAN,
BUT HE'S GONNA LOSE
A LOTTA DOUGH!



NO ONE DID. THEY RODE
ON. PRESENTLY....

THIS IS THE SPOT
ACCORDING TO THESE
MARKS ON THE MAP...
THE TREASURE'S HERE,
FIVE FEET DOWN...



THEY BEGAN TO DIG...

AIN'T
NO SIGN
YET.

KEEP
DIGGING,
CURSE
YOU!



THREE MORE HOURS PASSED...

IT MUST BE
HERE...! IT'S DRAWN
ON THE OLD FOOL'S
MAP!

UNLESS WE
BEEN FOILED, AND
THAT OLD GUY DREW
A PHONEY MAP.

SWAIN SNARLED WITH RAGE...

THAT BLEATING
OLD GOAT! HE'S
OUTSMARTED
US!

...AND WE GAVE
HIM TO THE INJUNS!
WE'LL NEVER FIND
THE TREASURE
NOW!



BUT THEIR TROUBLES WERE NOT OVER...



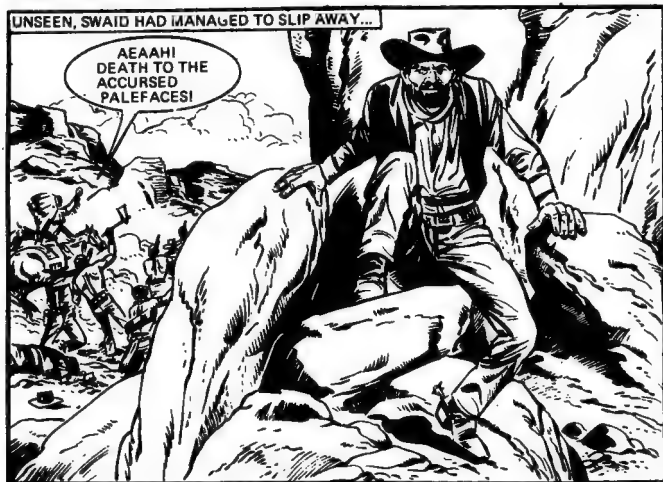


FIRE! FIRE!
DRIVE THE RED
VARMINTS
BACK!



BUT STILL THEY CAME ON.





SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

...THAT'S
THE COYOTE'S
HEAD!

YEAH, BUT
WHERE'S THE
RUINED TEMPLE
YOU TOLD US
ABOUT, PAI



THERE WAS A
SANDSTORM WHEN
I WAS HERE. IT MUSTA
BLOWN UP AGAIN AND
BURIED IT!







GEE, PAI I GOT
TO HAND IT TO YOU,
YOU'RE SMART! BUT
WHAT DO WE DO
NOW?

THE REAL MAP
AND MY HOSS WILL
HELP US FIND THE
TREASURE, YOU'LL
SEE!

HE TOLD THEM ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND WATERHOLE...



WHEN MY HORSE'S
EARS GO UP YOU CAN
RECKON THERE'S
WATER. HE AIN'T
FAILED ME YET!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THERE!
WHAT DID I
SAY!



THEY STARTED TO DIG.

GEE YOU'RE
RIGHT! THE SAND'S
GETTING
DAMP!

I KNEW
MY OLD PAL
WOULDN'T LET
ME DOWN!







MEBBE IT'S
BETTER HE COMES
DOWN HERE WITH
ME THAN UP THERE
WITH THE GUNS...



...THAT
MUST BE IT
THERE...



THE NEXT MOMENT...

GEE!
THERE'S A
FORTUNE
HERE!



THEY SPENT THE NEXT TWO HOURS BRINGING IT UP...

I RECKON ONE
MORE TRIP WILL SEE
THE LAST OF IT. PRETTY
SIGHT AIN'T IT?

YEAH.



PETE WAS STILL SUSPICIOUS...



BUT NOTHING HAPPENED...

HE'S MISSED
HIS CHANCE. PA MUST
BE RIGHT AND I WAS
WRONG ABOUT HIM...



THEN...

NO YOU DON'T, PETE!
GET BACK DOWN THERE...
AND YOU FOLLOW HIM,
OLD TIMER!



SO I
WAS RIGHT
ABOUT YOU,
JOE!

I GUESS IT
TAKES A CROOK
TO RECOGNISE A
CROOK, EH?





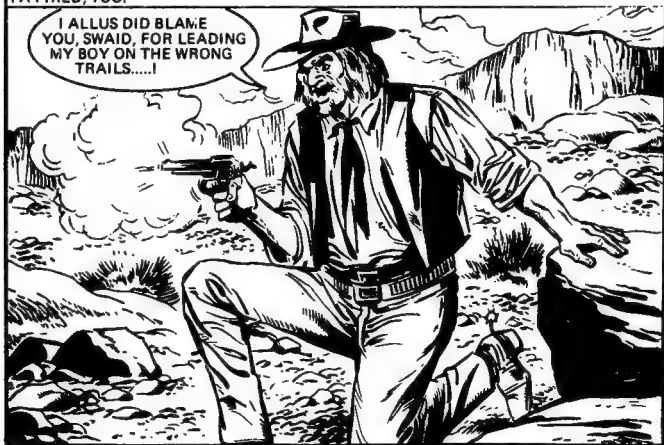


DESPERATELY JOE SQUEEZED HIS TRIGGER...



BOTH MEN HAD FIRED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND SWAID DIDN'T MISS. JOE KEELED OVER. PA FIRED, TOO.

I ALLUS DID BLAME
YOU, SWAID, FOR LEADING
MY BOY ON THE WRONG
TRAILS.....!



SWAID HADN'T EXPECTED
PA TO SHOOT, AND.....





YOU'RE
LIKE YOUR OLD
PA...NOT SO
DUMB!



PETE GRINNED. HIS OLD DAD WAS A
GREAT GUY. MAYBE IT WOULDN'T BE
SUCH A BAD IDEA TO FOLLOW IN HIS
FOOTSTEPS...



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